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EXHIBIT

A

March 22, 2001

Mr. William R. Wheeler  
9 Darlene Drive  
Southborough, Massachusetts 01772

Re: Patent Applications Related to Video Processing

Dear Mr. Wheeler:

Your name appears as an inventor on one or more of the patent applications listed below. At this time I would like to confirm that you are an inventor of the currently claimed subject matter of the first application.

- PD96-0040-1 (0918.1222-001), U.S. Patent Application No. 09/613,359, "Method and Apparatus for Performing Two Pass Quality Video Compression through Pipelining and Buffer Management by Matthew J. Adiletta, King Wai Chow, Samuel W. Ho, Robert C. Rose, William R. Wheeler and Duane E. Galbi. ('359 application).

Related applications include:

- PD96-0040 (0918.1222-000), U.S. Patent Application No. 09/670,199, same title and inventors as PD96-0040-1 ('199 application).
- PD96-0039 (0918.1220-000), U.S. Patent Application No. 08/668,400, "Method and Apparatus for Performing High Quality Video Compressing" by Adiletta, Ho, Rose and Wheeler ('400 application).
- PD96-0098 (0918.2020-000), U.S. Patent Application No. 08/668,277, Constant Rate Bit Compressed Video Encoding" by Chow and Rose ('277 application).
- PD96-0041 (0918.2021-000), U.S. Patent Application No. 08/668,187, "Method and Apparatus for Performing Pseudo-Temporal Filtering in Motion Estimation Hardware" by Adiletta, Subramania Iyer Sudharsan and Ho ('187 application).

Mr. William R. Wheeler  
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Please find enclosed a list of the current claims in the '359 application. The '359 application is a Continuation of the '199 application. The '359 application is related to the '400 application, the '277 application and the '187 application, all of which are now abandoned. Claims 1-23 of the '359 patent application are from Claims 1-23 as originally filed in the '400 application. Claims 24-27 of the '359 application are from Claims 1-4 of the '277 application. Claims 28-37 of the '359 application are from Claims 1-10 as originally filed in the '187 application.

The claims as originally filed in the '359 application have been divided into three groups, or species, for further prosecution:

Group I - Claims 1-5, drawn to Fig. 10, are directed to adaptive coding based on statistical information of image frames;

Group II - Claims 24-27, drawn to Fig. 6D, are directed to adaptive coding based on comparing a difference of image frames with an adaptive threshold level;

Group III - Claims 6-23 and 28-37, drawn to Fig. 21, are directed to adaptive coding based on motion characteristics of image frames.

The '359 application contains the claims of Group III, we have reserved the right to prosecute the claims of Groups I and II separately. The current claims in the '359 application (the claims of Group III) are attached. Please review those claims to insure that you have made a contribution, individually or jointly, to the subject matter of at least one of the current claims of the '359 application.

After you have had an opportunity to review the claims would you please sign and return the attached form indicating whether or not you can be named as an inventor on the '359 application.

If you have any questions please contact me at (781) 861-6240 x3256 or by email at steven.kurlowcz@hbsr.com.

Very truly yours,



C. Steven Kurlowcz

Enclosures

Mr. William R. Wheeler  
March 22, 2001  
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#### INVENTOR CERTIFICATION

I have reviewed the attached claims and state the following:

I have made a contribution, individually or jointly, to the subject matter of at least one of the current claims of the '359 application.

I have NOT made a contribution, individually or jointly, to the subject matter of at least one of the current claims of the '359 application.

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Date

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Inventor